

Members

Rep. John Day, Chairperson  
Rep. John Frenz  
Rep. Vaneta Becker  
Rep. Cleo Duncan  
Sen. Murray Clark  
Sen. Connie Lawson  
Sen. Frank Mrvan  
Sen. Connie Sipes



## HEALTH AND CHILD CARE ISSUES EVALUATION COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Karen Firestone, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee  
Ann Naughton, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC-2-5-21-10

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** September 10, 2003  
**Meeting Time:** 1:30 P.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St.,  
156-B  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 2

**Members Present:** Rep. John Day, Chairperson; Rep. John Frenz; Rep. Vaneta Becker;  
Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Frank Mrvan.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Murray Clark; Sen. Connie Sipes.

### Call To Order

Rep. John Day called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm and introduced the committee members. Rep. Day introduced the day's agenda, including testimony from

- Ms. Natalie Wolfe, Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation
- Rep. Cleo Duncan and constituents,
- Ms. Ellen Clippinger, President/CEO of AYS, Inc., and
- Ms. Dianna Wallace, Executive Director, Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children.

Rep. Day indicated that he would distribute a letter from Dr. Randall E. Garratt who was unable to attend the meeting. Rep. Day said that Dr. Garratt operated a child care ministry and supported licensure.

### Ms. Natalie Wolfe, Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation

Ms. Natalie Wolfe provided a handout for the Committee (Exhibit A) containing

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

recommendations for improving child care including support of training for child care workers and legislation to support onsite, employer-based child care. Ms. Wolfe began her comments by explaining the circumstances of her daughter's death at an unlicensed child care home and then discussing her recommendations.

Rep. Vaneta Becker asked about legislation proposed in the last session that would require licensure. Ms. Wolfe indicated that the legislation had required licensure, but had been amended to require registration instead. The bill passed the House, but did not get a hearing in the Senate. Rep. Becker asked LSA to look at the 15 states that require licensure for only one child in a home to determine if there have been changes in child mortality rates.

#### Rep. Cleo Duncan and Constituents

Next, Rep. Day called on Rep. Duncan and she asked the people who had come from Greensburg, IN, to rise and introduce themselves. Rep. Duncan then asked Ms. Shelia Koors to address the Committee. Ms. Koors discussed the difficulty she has finding after-school care for her children. She indicated that licensed daycare providers can only have a limited number of children and that the school district provides an after-school program only for children with academic needs. Also, she said that many programs do not have sliding scale fees for multiple-child families. Ms. Koors said that there were differences between rural and urban areas and that every district should be able to make its decisions concerning child care licensure.

Rep. Day and Rep. Becker discussed programs that provide for before- and after-school care for children within the school and resources in the community to provide care during school breaks. Rep. Duncan indicated that rural communities do not have the same opportunities as urban areas to provide after-school care. She indicated that limiting the number of children at a licensed child care home causes problems for families with school aged kids. She said that although they are not at the child care home all day, they are counted as a full-day child. Rep. Duncan opined that legislation passed at the state level may have unintended consequence for families who end up without a place to keep children after school.

Rep. Duncan then called on Ms. LeeAnn Dirkhoff to address the Committee. Ms. Dirkhoff indicated that there are lots of providers in her area, but that the providers are not licensed. She said that providers feel that they do not want the state in their business, especially when they do not receive state funding. Ms. Dirkhoff said that licensure does not insure quality. Ms. Dirkhoff said that the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) agent in their area is too strict and that some unlicensed providers are not interested in becoming licensed because of this agent. Ms. Dirkhoff recommended that a child care home meeting the minimum standards and not receiving state funds should not have to be licensed. She also recommended raising the licensure threshold from five children to seven.

The Committee discussed the difference between rural and urban areas and the need to avoid a cookie-cutter approach. Rep. Day said that he would call on FSSA to discuss requirements for licensure at the end of the meeting.

#### Ms. Ellen Clippinger, President/CEO AYS, Inc.

Rep. Day called on Ms. Ellen Clippinger. Ms. Clippinger reviewed a handout provided for the Committee (Exhibit B) including recommendations to revamp the policy underlying the child care system, create a board for youth and child development, provide additional funding for child care with a line item in the budget, differentiate cut-off levels for funding, and revitalize the Step Ahead process.

#### Ms. Dianna Wallace, Executive Director, Indiana Association for the Education of Young

## Children

Rep. Day next called on Ms. Dianna Wallace to address the Committee. Ms. Wallace provided a handout to the Committee from her organization containing three recommendations including development of an early childhood council, regulation of programs providing care or education to children from two or more unrelated families, and providing training opportunities for people working with children (Exhibit C).

Rep. Day and Rep. Becker asked Ms. Wallace about the early childhood council in Illinois. She indicated that in Illinois, the council is composed of department heads, bipartisan legislative members, and the head of the Department of Instruction who chairs the committee. She also indicated that, although she did not know how Illinois provided statewide coordination, her organization uses focus groups and teleconferencing to provide services to various areas of Indiana.

Sen. Connie Lawson then asked if Ms. Wallace's organization had tried to have unregistered child care providers register. Ms. Wallace indicated that that was part of the national platform of her organization.

## Discussion and Child Care Licensing

Rep. Day distributed the statement from Dr. Garratt (Exhibit D). Ms. Patricia Cole, Healthy Child Care, presented a copy of *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs: Second Edition*, from the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care (copies are available on the Internet at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/CFOC/index.html>).

Rep. Day called on Mr. Keith Carver, Licensing Manager, Family and Social Services Administration to explain how child care home providers are licensed. Mr. Carver indicated that a child care home provider would contact local resource and referral services for an orientation on what to expect. He said that there is a criminal records check which requires fingerprinting by the FBI at a cost of \$30, training including basic first aid and CPR, and an application to the local Office of Family and Children. Further, an agent makes an in-home visit to survey for a basic check list of items. Based on an executive order, there is no charge for the in-home survey.

In response to a question from Sen. Lawson, Mr. Carver indicated that the time from first contact to licensure varied, but averaged 30 days. Sen. Frank Mrvan asked the earlier speakers to identify the part of this procedure to which they object. Rep. Duncan said that the list was not complete and did not include the recordkeeping that was required. Mr. Carver indicated that a record of every child in daycare is required along with the immunization record and a record of staff criminal records checks.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Carver indicated that a fence is required for child care homes, that the inspector visits each home once a year, that child care home records are kept in the home, and that he would provide a copy of the inspection check list. Sen. Mrvan opined that the records required were no more than the records needed for accounting purposes or that a student would need for admission to school.

Rep. John Frenz summarized the discussion indicating that differences among the counties were complicated by statewide legislation. Sen. Mrvan asked whether counties have the ability to set standards. Ms. Ann Naughton, Legislative Services Agency, answered that they did not under current law.

Next Meeting Date

Rep. Day suggested meeting on October 15, 2003, or October 21, 2003. After Committee discussion, the possibility of the 15<sup>th</sup> was ruled out. Rep. Day indicated that the topic of the next meeting would be the nurse shortage. He adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.